

MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 30, 2014

The 346th meeting of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority was held Thursday, October 30, 2014. Chairwoman Ms. LaSalle called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Ms. Faith LaSalle, Chairwoman

Mr. John Howell

Mr. Robert Delaney

Mr. Daniel Egan

Mr. Christopher Feisthamel, designee for General Treasurer Gina Raimondo

Ms. Christine Jenkins

Ms. Leah Williams Metts

Members Absent:

Dr. William Croasdale

Also Attending:

Ms. Gail Mance-Rios, Acting Executive Director

Mr. Joseph Palumbo, Legal Counsel

Mr. Charles Miller, CIO

Ms. Linda Makhoul, HR

Mr. Michael Joyce, S&G

Mr. Thomas Pearce, Account Resolution

Ms. Dana Peterson-Fatuda, Administration

Ms. Patia Bertram, Accounting

Ms. Winifred Antos, RIHEAA

Mr. Kevin Elliott, RIHEAA

Mr. Stephen Strycharz, Council 94 President

Ms. Liza Cohen, Legislative Analyst

Mr. Gregory Stack, Budget Office

Ms. Shirley Roy, RIHEAA

Ms. Laurie Brayton, Legislative Analyst

1. Chairwoman LaSalle called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Mance-Rios to review the US Department of Education letter. Ms. Mance-Rios stated she reached out to the US Department of Education regarding the endowment of funds, and their response is enclosed in the letter. She stated we must keep liquidity of funds on hand to help run the agency.

2. Action Item: Review and Approval of the Default Aversion Contract:

Ms. Mance-Rios stated we went to bid on Default Aversion services, and NCO came back with the best price and services. Ms. Mance-Rios stated the NCO contract is for one-year and three one-year renewal options. Mr. Palumbo has reviewed the contract. A motion to approve the Default Aversion Contract with NCO was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Ms. Jenkins.

Voted in Favor: Ms. LaSalle, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Ms. Jenkins, Mr. Delaney, and Mr. Howell.

It should be noted that Mr. Feisthamel was not present for the vote.

Votes against: None

3. Action Item: Review and Approval of the CBb Data Sharing Agreement: Ms. Mance-Rios stated we are seeking to enter into a data sharing agreement with the Department of Health in regards to the CollegeBoundbaby Program. A motion to enter into a data sharing agreement with the Department of Health was made by Ms. Jenkins, and seconded by Mr. Howell.

Voted in Favor: Ms. LaSalle, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Ms. Jenkins, Mr. Delaney, and Mr. Howell.

It should be noted that Mr. Feisthamel was not present for the vote.

Votes against: None

4. Action Item: Review and approval of FAFSA Data Sharing Agreement PPSD/RIHEAA: Ms. Mance-Rios stated the partnership with the Providence School Department will help provide aid to high-school seniors with certain financial aid programs and the FAFSA process. Mr. Delaney stated he had concerns that other districts might come forward with the same request. Ms. LaSalle stated maybe we could charge districts for this information. Ms. Metts stated, perhaps we could use Providence as the pilot district. Mr. Delaney asked for a cost analysis of each district before approval. Mr. Miller will provide a cost analysis report. Approval of the FAFSA Data Sharing Agreement with PPSD/RIHEAA was tabled until the next Board meeting.

5. Budget vs. Actual: Ms. Mance-Rios stated due to illness, Mr. Cook of LGCD is unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. LaSalle asked for this report at the next Board meeting.

6. Investment Report: Ms. LaSalle stated that Dr. Croasdale could not be here today. No report for this item.

7. Quasi-Public Corporation Accountability and Transparency Act: Ms. Mance-Rios reviewed the Act with the Board and stated the RIHEAA website will be updated in order to stay compliant. Mr. Palumbo suggested having a check list presented at the next Board

meeting.

8. Personnel Committee Update: Mr. Delaney stated at the last Personnel Committee meeting they gave the Acting Executive Director direction to provide a strategic plan, along with an updated organizational chart that reflects the changes of the agency and have all employees input. At today's meeting we received more input on management positions. Mr. Delaney stated at the next Personnel Committee meeting, we will have information to come before the Board for approval and/or recommendations.

9. Action Item(s): Review and Approval of the SLMA Agreement: Ms. Mance-Rios stated the implementation date is still April 1, 2015. Mr. Delaney asked for a written statement from Sallie Mae. Ms. LaSalle asked them to put in writing an April 1, 2015 implementation date. Ms. LaSalle asked if we could have the contract for the next Board meeting, scheduled on Wednesday, November 5, 2015. Mr. Howell asked if this changes the budget. Ms. Mance-Rios stated yes, if we follow the organization chart presented at the Personnel Committee meeting. Mr. Delaney stated the April 1, 2015 will have a larger impact on the budget.

10. Proposed 2015 RIHEAA Board of Director's meeting scheduled: A motion to approve the 2015 RIHEAA Board of Director's meeting schedule was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Delaney.

Voted in favor: Ms. LaSalle, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Ms. Jenkins, Mr. Delaney, Mr. Feisthamel and Mr. Howell.

Voted against: None

At 10:25 a.m. Ms. LaSalle made a motion to enter into Executive Session to receive an update and advice from legal counsel and/or to discuss the status of pending litigation pursuant to Section 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Open Meetings Law.

Voted in Favor: Mr. Feisthamel, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Mr. Delaney, Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Howell.

Voted against: None

Public Session resumed at 10:40 a.m.

Upon Public Session, Ms. LaSalle stated no votes were taken in Executive Session and made a motion to seal the minutes.

Voted in Favor: Mr. Feisthamel, Ms. Metts, Mr. Egan, Mr. Delaney, Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Howell.

Voted against: None

There being no further business to come before the Board of

Director's, the meeting adjourned.

Adjournment was at 10:40 a.m.

Mr. John Howell

Secretary